

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) The method of 7 wherein the distributed data processing system is a heterogeneous client-server system.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of 7 wherein the data processing system is a Windows-based system.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of 7 wherein a state of the data processing system is captured by performing a snapshot of data within the data processing system.

5. (Original) The method of 4 wherein the snapshot may be configured to include or to exclude portions of data within the data processing system.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method for identifying and storing changes to a data processing system within a distributed data processing system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

initializing the data processing system for a capture of an initial state of the data processing system;

modifying the data processing system;

capturing a modified state of the data processing system; and

storing differences between the initial state and the modified state as a set of configuration parameters in a depository, wherein the differences are separated into system-specific changes and user-specific changes;

wherein the system specific changes are applied on a per-system basis and the user-specific changes are applied on a per-user basis;

wherein the differences between the initial state and the modified state comprise differences between user files, system files, user registries, and system registries; and

wherein the differences between user files and differences between user registries may be used to manage configurability of the application on a per-user basis.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of 7 wherein the differences between system files and differences between system registries may be used to manage configurability of the application on a per-system basis.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of 7 wherein the differences between the initial state and the modified state comprise differences between .INI files.

10. (Original) The method of 9 wherein the differences between .INI files is captured line-by-line.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of 7 wherein the data processing system is modified by installing an application.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of 7 wherein the data processing system is modified by changing a registry file.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of 7 wherein the data processing system is modified by changing a .INI file.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of 20 wherein the distributed data processing system is a heterogeneous client-server system.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of 20 wherein the data processing system is a Windows-based system.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of 20 wherein a state of the data processing system is captured by performing a snapshot of data within the data processing system.

18. (Original) The apparatus of 17 wherein the snapshot may be configured to include or to exclude portions of data within the data processing system.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for identifying and storing changes to a data processing system within a distributed data processing system, the apparatus comprising:

- initializing means for initializing the data processing system for a capture of an initial state of the data processing system;
- modifying means for modifying the data processing system;
- capturing means for capturing a modified state of the data processing system; and
- storing means for storing differences between the initial state and the modified state as a set of configuration parameters in a depository, wherein the differences are separated into system-specific changes and user-specific changes;

wherein the system specific changes are applied on a per-system basis and the user-specific changes are applied on a per-user basis;

wherein the differences between the initial state and the modified state comprise differences between user files, system files, user registries, and system registries; and wherein the differences between user files and differences between user registries may be used to manage configurability of the application on a per-user basis.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of 20 wherein the differences between system files and differences between system registries may be used to manage configurability of the application on a per-system basis.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of 20 wherein the differences between the initial state and the modified state comprise differences between .INI files.

23. (Original) The apparatus of 22 wherein the differences between .INI files is captured line-by-line.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of 20 wherein the data processing system is modified by installing an application.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of 20 wherein the data processing system is modified by changing a registry file.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of 20 wherein the data processing system is modified by changing a .INI file.

27-29. (Cancelled)